Serial No. 09/672,304 Docket No. AM9-99-0146

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-23 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claim 23 has been amended to more correct a minor informality. Claims 1, 7, 17 and 23 are independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicant also notes that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Entry of this §1.116 Amendment is proper. Since the Amendments above narrow the issues for appeal and since such features and their distinctions over the prior art of record were discussed earlier, such amendments do not raise a new issue requiring a further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. As such, entry of this Amendment is believed proper and Applicant earnestly solicits entry. No new matter has been added.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Appellant's Deposit Account No. 09-0441.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 12/28/03

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